

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus, comprising:

a first extraction unit operable to extract a ~~first~~ keyword from title character string information which designates a title of contents in electronic program guide (EPG) information using a first keyword dictionary in which a character string designating a sub-genre is registered; and

a second extraction unit operable to extract a keyword from detailed character string information which explains details of the contents in the EPG information using a second keyword dictionary in which names of persons are registered, and to extract a keyword utilizing a character type separation method,

in which said first extraction unit is operable to make a whole title character string or strings in which character strings registered in the keyword dictionary for titles are included within a respective program title or titles a keyword extraction objective or objectives, substitute by a space or spaces a portion or portions of a character string or strings which are designated in an exclude character string dictionary for titles within a title or titles which are made to be a keyword extraction objective, and extract a keyword from the title character string or strings which went through a extraction process.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first extraction unit extracts as the first keyword a character string separated by a special character other than at least one of

Hiragana, Katakana, a Chinese character, a numerical character and an alphabet letter from within a title character string which includes a character string registered in the first keyword dictionary.

4. (previously presented) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second extraction unit extracts a keyword from a portion excluding a character string registered in a predetermined character string dictionary for exclusion utilizing the character type separation method within a remaining portion of the detailed character string information from which a keyword has been extracted using the second keyword dictionary.

5. (previously presented) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second extraction unit treats Katakana and an alphabet letter as the same character type when the character type separation method is utilized and at the same time, treats "." (midpoint) as Katakana when a letter just before is Katakana or as an alphabet letter when the letter just before is an alphabet letter.

6. (previously presented) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a downloading unit operable to download the second keyword dictionary via a network, wherein the second extraction unit uses the downloaded second keyword dictionary.

7. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction method, comprising:

extracting a ~~first~~ keyword from title character string information which designates a title of contents in electronic program guide (EPG) information using a first keyword dictionary in which a character string designating a sub-genre is registered; and

extracting a keyword from detailed character string information which explains details of the contents in the EPG information using a second keyword dictionary in which names of persons are registered, and extracting a keyword utilizing a character type separation method,

in which said extracting a keyword from title character string information includes making a whole title character string or strings in which character strings registered in the keyword dictionary for titles are included within a respective program title or titles a keyword extraction objective or objectives, substituting by a space or spaces a portion or portions of a character string or strings which are designated in an exclude character string dictionary for titles within a title or titles which are made to be a keyword extraction objective, and extracting a keyword from the title character string or strings which went through a extraction process.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) An automatic keyword extraction method according to claim 7, wherein a character string separated by a special character other than at least one of Hiragana, Katakana, a Chinese character, a numerical character and an alphabet letter is extracted as the first keyword from within a title character string which includes a character string registered in the first keyword dictionary.

10. (previously presented) An automatic keyword extraction method according to claim 7, wherein a keyword is extracted from a portion excluding a character string registered in a predetermined character string dictionary for exclusion utilizing the character type separation method within a remaining portion of the detailed character string information from which the keyword has been extracted using the second keyword dictionary.

11. (previously presented) An automatic keyword extraction method according to claim 7, wherein in the extraction of the keyword, Katakana and an alphabet letter are treated as the same character type when the character type separation method is utilized and at the same time, "." (midpoint) is treated as Katakana when a letter just before is Katakana and is treated as an alphabet letter when the letter just before is an alphabet letter.

12. (previously presented) An automatic keyword extraction method according to claim 7, further comprising downloading the second keyword dictionary via a network, wherein the downloaded second keyword dictionary is used in the step of extracting the keyword utilizing the character type separation method.

13. (currently amended) A recording medium recorded with a program which can be read by a computer to perform an automatic keyword extraction process, the process comprising:

extracting a ~~first~~ keyword from title character string information which designates a title of contents in electronic

program guide (EPG) information using a first keyword dictionary in which a character string designating a sub-genre is registered; and

extracting a keyword from detailed character string information which explains details of the contents in the EPG information using a second keyword dictionary in which names of persons are registered, and extracting a keyword utilizing a character type separation method,

in which said extracting a keyword from title character string information includes making a whole title character string or strings in which character strings registered in the keyword dictionary for titles are included within a respective program title or titles a keyword extraction objective or objectives, substituting by a space or spaces a portion or portions of a character string or strings which are designated in an exclude character string dictionary for titles within a title or titles which are made to be a keyword extraction objective, and extracting a keyword from the title character string or strings which went through a extraction process.

14. (currently amended) A system for performing an automatic keyword extraction process, the system comprising:

a processor operable to execute instructions; and

instructions for performing the automatic keyword extraction process, the process including:

extracting a ~~first~~ keyword from title character string information which designates a title of contents in electronic program guide (EPG) information using a first keyword dictionary in which a character string designating a sub-genre is registered; and

extracting a keyword from detailed character string information which explains details of the contents in the EPG information using a second keyword dictionary in which names of persons are registered, and extracting a keyword utilizing a character type separation method.

in which said extracting a keyword from title character string information includes making a whole title character string or strings in which character strings registered in the keyword dictionary for titles are included within a respective program title or titles a keyword extraction objective or objectives, substituting by a space or spaces a portion or portions of a character string or strings which are designated in an exclude character string dictionary for titles within a title or titles which are made to be a keyword extraction objective, and extracting a keyword from the title character string or strings which went through a extraction process.

15. (currently amended) An automatic keyword extraction apparatus, comprising:

a first extraction means for extracting a ~~first~~ keyword from title character string information which designates a title of contents in electronic program guide (EPG) information using a first keyword dictionary in which a character string designating a sub-genre is registered; and

a second extraction means for extracting a keyword from detailed character string information which explains details of the contents in the EPG information using a second keyword dictionary in which names of persons are registered, and for extracting a keyword utilizing a character type separation method.

in which said first extraction means is operable to make a whole title character string or strings in which

character strings registered in the keyword dictionary for titles are included within a respective program title or titles a keyword extraction objective or objectives, substitute by a space or spaces a portion or portions of a character string or strings which are designated in an exclude character string dictionary for titles within a title or titles which are made to be a keyword extraction objective, and extract a keyword from the title character string or strings which went through a extraction process.